



## London Borough of Enfield

<b>Report Title</b>	Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) Review 2021 - 2023
<b>Report to</b>	Children, Young People and Education
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	11/03/2024
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr Abdullahi
<b>Executive Director / Director</b>	Tony Theodoulou – Executive Director, People Peter Nathan – Director of Education
<b>Report Author</b>	Sharon Davies <a href="mailto:Sharon.davies@enfield.gov.uk">Sharon.davies@enfield.gov.uk</a>
<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	All wards
<b>Classification</b>	Public

### Purpose of Report

1. The report provides an overview to the panel in relation to the implementation of the DfE (Department for Education) funded Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. The report highlights the local delivery arrangements and the uptake of eligible children for 2022-23, including lessons learnt from the evaluation and the plans in place for maximising benefits and engagement of eligible children in 2024-25.

### Main Considerations for the Panel

2. **HAF overview, local delivery model, performance, impact, and future plans**

#### 2.1 HAF overview

The DfE HAF programme was expanded in 2020/21 to all Local Authorities. Table 1 highlights DfE funding available to Enfield from the launch of the programme in 2021. The funding is expected to cover the provision of the free holiday places and the coordination of the programme locally.

*Table 1*

<b>Year</b>	<b>Funding</b>
2021/22 (Feb 21- Mar 22)	£1,686,000
2022/23	£1,579,509
2023/24	£1,608,530
2024/25	£1,626,620

Key aims of the HAF programme set out by the DfE are to:

- provide free holiday activity places to children eligible for free school meals for the minimum four hours a day, four days a week, six weeks a year;
- cover four weeks in the summer holidays and a week's worth of provision in each of the Easter and Winter holidays;
- ensure the programme provides eligible children with nutritious meal a day and daily physical activities that meet the required standards; and
- incorporate within the programme nutritional education, training, and advice for parents/carers, including signposting to other services and support that would benefit the children who attend their provision and their families.

The DfE sets out the expectation for each local authority to map existing holiday activities provision, carry out a procurement process, award funding, provide support to providers and promote development of sustainable provision. Each local authority awarded the funding is expected to provide a regular performance report to the DfE in line with the terms and conditions of the grant.

The HAF programme funding is for school aged children from reception to year 11 (inclusive) who receive benefits-related free school meals (FSM).

Local authorities have discretion to use up to 15% of their funding to provide free or subsidised holiday club places for children who are not in receipt of benefits-related FSM but who the local authority believe could benefit from HAF and this should be aligned to local priorities. In Enfield the priority has been for children with SEND. Up to 10% of the grant can be used for administration and coordination of the programme.

There are many benefits for children who attend HAF programmes which include

- receiving healthy and nutritious meals
- maintaining a healthy level of physical activity
- being happy, having fun and meeting new friends
- developing a greater understanding of food, nutrition, and other health-related issues
- taking part in fun and engaging activities that support their development
- feeling safe and secure
- getting access to the right support services

- returning to school feeling engaged and ready to learn

## **2.2 Local delivery model**

### **2.2.1 Coordination of HAF**

The HAF programme is managed by a dedicated coordination function consisting of 1.5 fte officers and supported by strategic leads and administration support.

There has been a steering group in place since the launch of the programme to support and oversee delivery of HAF. Having moved away from grants to procurement and given the maturity of the delivery model and partnership working, we have consolidated governance arrangements.

The HAF strategic overview group now meets termly and consists of the HAF delivery team, the Youth Service and SEN officers. The HAF provider network meets half termly and includes: HAF delivery team, HAF providers and key partners as appropriate.

In addition, the HAF delivery team meet monthly with neighbouring borough HAF coordinators to enable communication around providers and systems that we all use.

The HAF delivery team is also part of a London network with Childcare Works who are commissioned by the DfE as the national support body.

### **2.2.2 Grant giving**

In the initial phase, HAF funding was administered via a grants award process. Commencing December 2023, we have a HAF framework in place with 26 providers being added to the procurement framework. This is for mainstream HAF provision. The implementation of the framework will enable the HAF team to work closely with the 26 providers to upskill staff, work closer in partnership with each other and maximise opportunities with outside agencies such as surplus food and national sports agencies.

We are in the process of setting up a procurement vehicle for specialist SEND provision in 2024 as we did not have enough viable applications to progress this element of the framework. Currently the specialist SEND provision runs through a grants award process and funding is ringfenced to allow for the higher costs of supported spaces.

Funding is ringfenced for the Council Youth Service who are well placed to engage with eligible young people both in Youth Centres and in partnership with secondary schools. During the summer programme HAF and Summer University ran a complimentary offer.

Benchmarking has taken place with neighbouring boroughs and a maximum cost per child per day of £28 was introduced to streamline costings and maximise the use of the DfE grant.

### **2.2.3 Central booking system**

From Summer 2022, a central booking system called Playwaze was implemented that provides a dedicated platform for providers to add their activities and simplifies marketing of activities and booking process for parents and children. This also enabled a self-declaration process of FSM eligibility.

From Summer 2023, the use of e-vouchers was implemented to ensure that those who were booking spaces on the HAF programme were children eligible to free school meals. This system uses school databases to issue digital vouchers to eligible children. The voucher then links to the booking system and is unique for each child. This system has greatly increased our partnerships with all schools. It also enabled us to market the programme to eligible families and has increased the number of free school meal applications. Contact with families has also increased so signposting has been more effective.

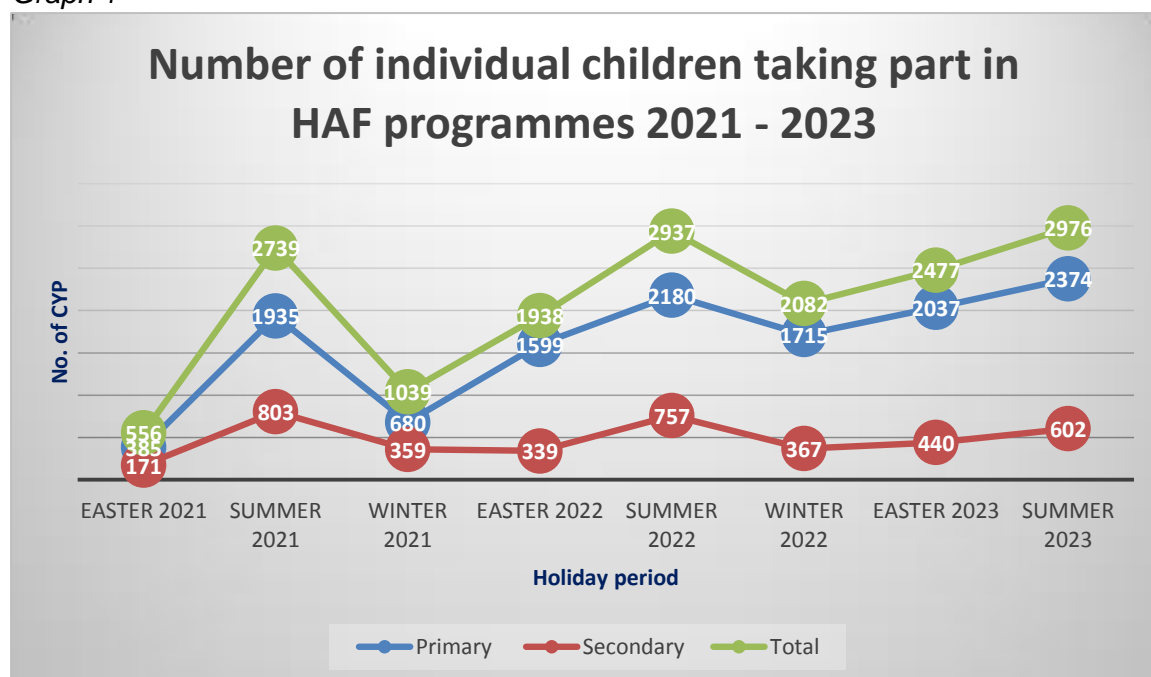
Many parents and carers find the use of the central booking system a challenge as English is not their first language and there is not currently translation available. The web developer is introducing translation function from Summer 2023. We also currently offer support to providers face to face so we can help with bookings.

## 2.3 HAF delivery performance and partnership work

### 2.3.1 Engagement of children with HAF

Graph 1 shows the individual number of children taking part in HAF programmes by each holiday period. In most cases the numbers continue to increase for each holiday period for both primary and secondary ages, which is positive. The summer HAF programmes engage with higher numbers of children due to the longer period of time that the programme is run over.

Graph 1



## 2.3.2 HAF provision and range of providers

Map 1 shows the HAF providers location by ward and table 2 shows the providers referenced on the map by a number. The majority of providers were located in wards with the highest number of children who are eligible for free school meals benefits. Locations vary slightly for each holiday period as a majority of locations are school based and schools are not always able to accommodate HAF programmes.

Map 1 -HAF Provider Map Winter 2023 by ward

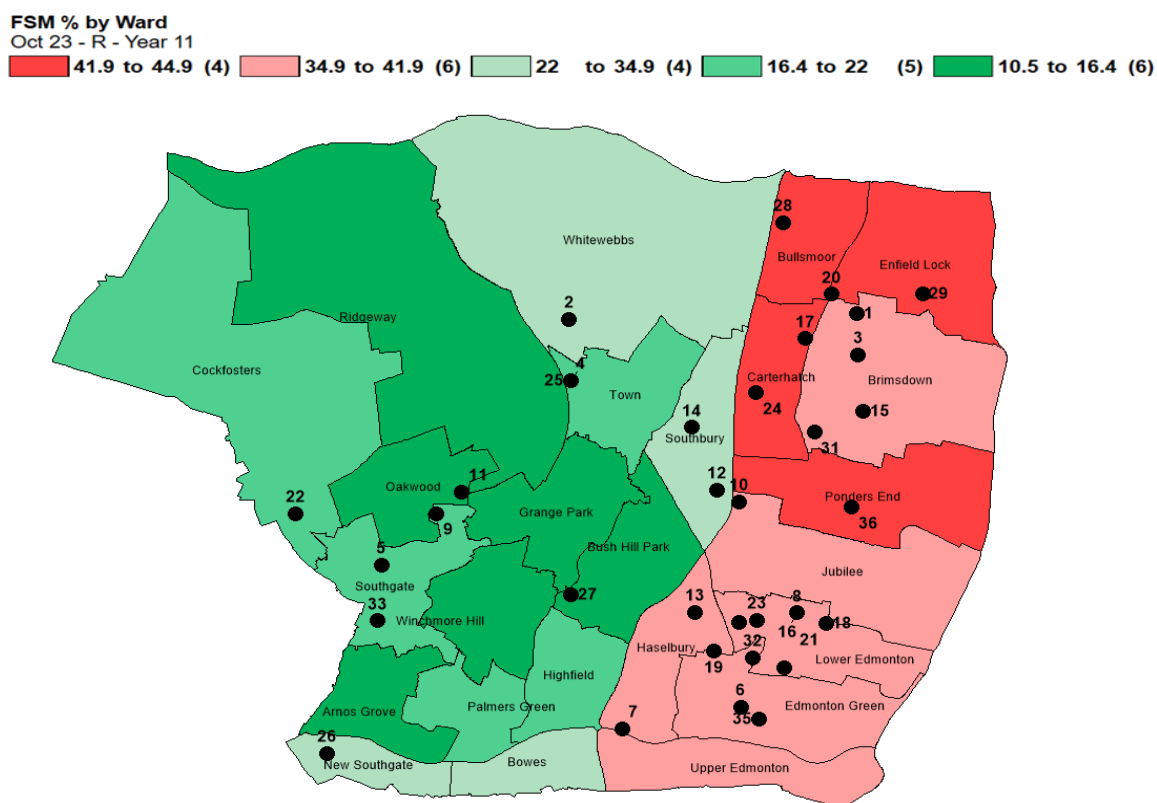


Table 2 – providers and locations listed on map 1

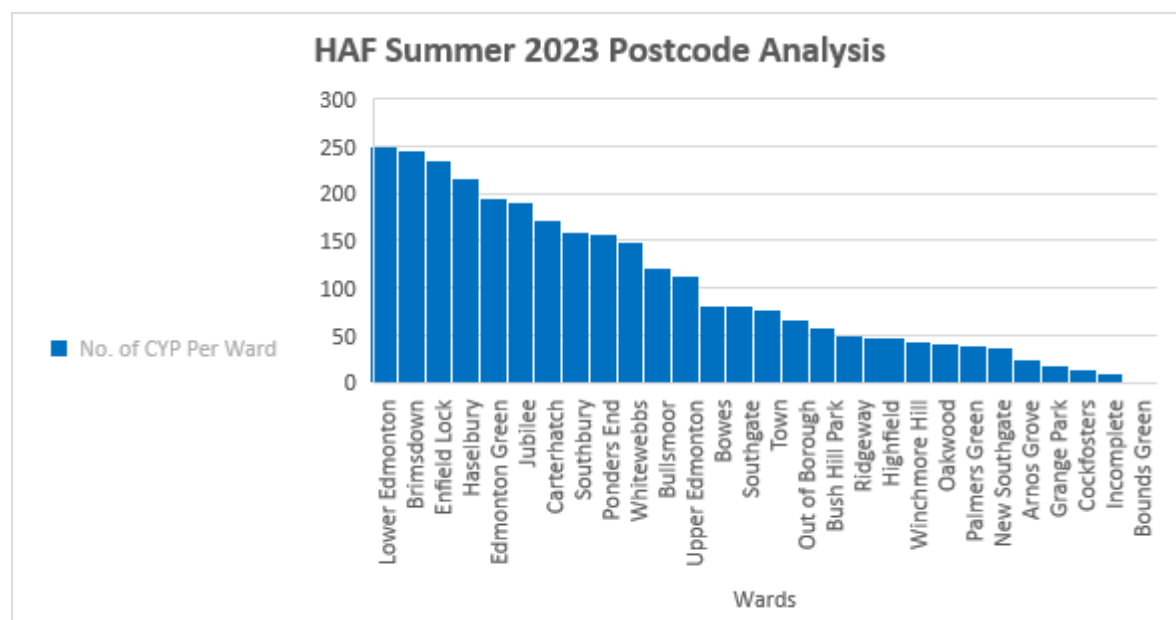
1	Anytime Childcare (bubbles & smiles) – Ark John Keats Academy
2	APF Activity Camps – Brigadier Community Hall
3	Centre 404 – Rose Taylor Community Centre
4	CK Performing Arts – Chase Side Primary School
5	Complete Sports – West Grove Primary School
6	ECP - Fleecefield Primary School
7	ECP - Millfield Theatre
8	First Kicks – Eldon Primary School
9	First Kicks – Eversley Primary School
10	Get with the Kids Vibe – Jump In Trampoline Park
11	Get with the Kids Vibe - Highlands Village Hall
12	Holistic - Bush Hill Park Primary School
13	Holistic - Churchfield Primary School
14	Kidz Play – Enfield Grammar School
15	Learning Hive – Brimsdown Primary School
16	Malearn – Eldon Primary School
17	Parks Community Programme CIC – Enfield Heights Academy

18	Phoenix Family Support Service – The Ark Edmonton
19	Pro Touch – Woodpecker Hall Academy
20	Restore Community – Albany Church
21	Samafal – The Ark Edmonton
22	Sport 4 Kids – De Bohun Primary School
23	St Andrews Youth Development – St Edmund Catholic Church Hall
24	Success Club – Suffolks Primary School
25	Super Star Sport - Chase Side Primary School
26	Super Star Sport - Garfield Primary school
27	Time for Change - Winchmore Hill Sports Club
28	Walker Childrens Club - Honilands Primary School
29	Walker Childrens Club - Prince of Wales Primary School
30	WISE Youth Trust – Westbourne Hall
31	Work Works Training Solutions – CONEL
32	Youth & Community Connexions – Market Square Edmonton
33	Youth Service - Alan Pullinger Youth Centre
34	Youth Service - Croyland Youth Centre
35	Youth Service - Craig Park Youth and Family Hub
36	Youth Service - Ponders End Youth and Family Hub

### 2.3.3 Children’s attendance by their postcode residence

Graph 2 shows the number of individual children who attended HAF programmes Analysis of summer 2023 programme, shows that the highest number of attendees reside in the wards with the highest number of children in receipt of free school meals. 67 children were out of borough but attend Enfield schools.

Graph 2



### 2.3.4 Children with SEND needs

Table 3 shows the number of individual children with SEN who have taken part in HAF programmes since Winter 2021. There has been a steady increase due to a number of factors including working with special schools, provider training so

that they are confident with running an inclusive programme, funding 1:1 support for children with more complex needs and working with parents.

One provider Centre 404 runs a programme exclusively for children with more complex SEN and the Youth Service introduced a SEN programme Summer 2023 which increased provision further.

*Table 3*

	<b>Winter 2021</b>	<b>Easter 2022</b>	<b>Summer 2022</b>	<b>Winter 2022</b>	<b>Easter 2023</b>	<b>Summer 2023</b>
<b>Primary SEN</b>	114	178	113*	156	231	358
<b>Secondary SEN</b>	12	44	35*	43	34	104

\*A central booking system was introduced which ensured bookings and reporting was overseen by the HAF delivery team and data could be more accurately monitored. This resulted in a temporary dip in reported numbers.

### **2.3.5 Holiday activity vouchers**

Since the introduction of holiday activity vouchers in summer 2023, we have captured the following statistics:

- Summer 2023 – 17,092 vouchers were issued to FSM eligible children by 90 schools and Enfield Council. 8664 vouchers were redeemed through HAF.
- Winter 2023 – 16,580 vouchers were issued to FSM eligible children by 94 schools and Enfield Council. 5983 vouchers were redeemed through HAF.

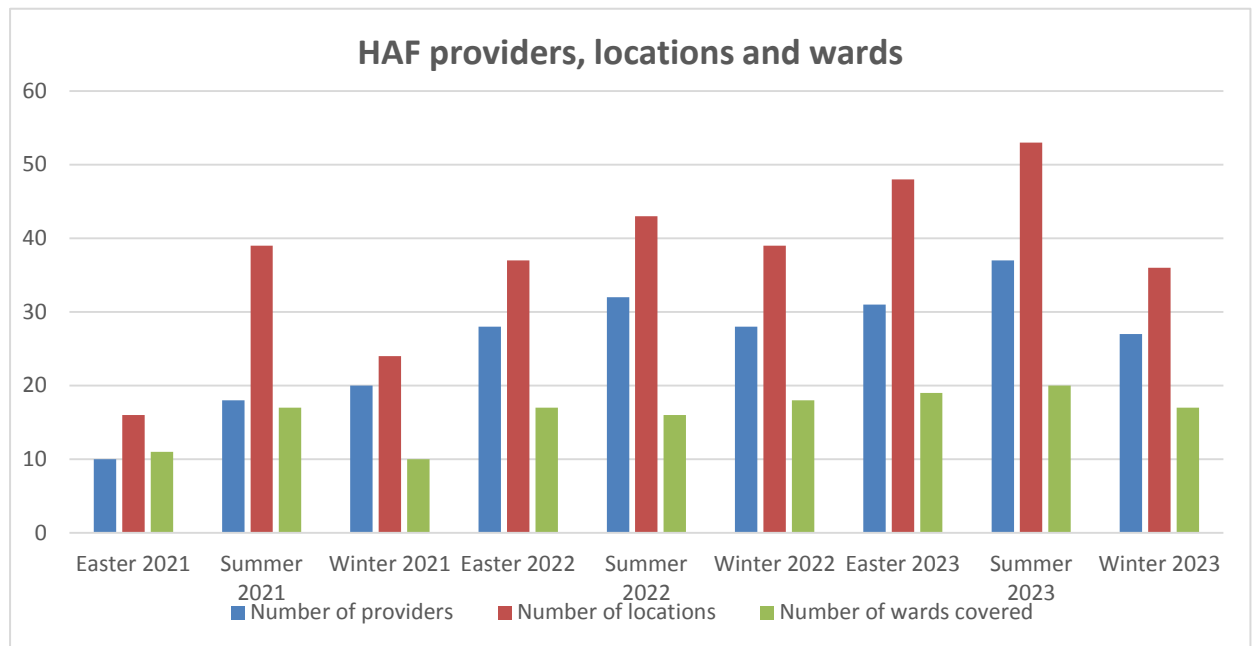
We will continue to work with schools to increase the uptake of the vouchers.

### **2.3.6 Enfield HAF delivery trajectory**

Graph 3 shows the steady increase in the number of HAF providers, locations across the borough and the number of wards covered since Easter 2021.

Winter 2023 saw the introduction of the framework so the number of providers has decreased and will remain the same for the duration of the framework, however the number of locations and wards covered should continue to remain steady as some providers will run at multiple locations.

Graph 3



### 2.3.7 Partnership work impact

Partnership work has been enabled by the local partnership steering group for HAF that have been overseeing implementation of the programme as well as stimulated by the coordinating function of the HAF programme.

Many partnerships have been developed to ensure the smooth running of the HAF programmes as well as significantly enhancing the HAF offer. Some of these partnerships are ongoing and some are linked to funding opportunities and are only available for one holiday period. Some examples are:

- Youth Service is one of the key providers with HAF funding enhancing Summer University and local youth offer during easter and winter holidays and introduces participating children into a wider local youth offer.
- Close working relationship with Children and Families services enables access and prioritised pathways for vulnerable children to the HAF programme such as children in need, those on child protection plans and those also known to Youth Justice Service. It also enables access to Early Help support where HAF providers identify families with children that need help.
- All schools in Enfield issue HAF vouchers and support promotion.
- Edmonton Community Partnership and Enfield Town Schools Partnership link with all of their schools and promote HAF and provide additional funding, if possible, to enhance HAF programmes.
- HAF team provides support for smaller local voluntary and community organisations with bookings and training courses.
- Free School Meal team check eligibility status of children and HAF and signpost parents for support with applications.
- Community Hubs support promotion of HAF and HAF providers signpost parents/carers to Community Hubs and Family Hubs.



- Cheviots children's disability service provides SEN training for HAF providers and work collaboratively to fund as many holiday spaces for children with SEN as possible through HAF and Short Breaks.
- Public Health wrote a nutritional education guide for HAF providers with ideas of how to include nutritional education in their programmes for both children and families.
- Waitrose provide funding each summer through the 'give a little love' campaign.
- Warburtons provide some HAF providers with product donations which are used during the programmes or sent home for families to eat.
- Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) offered providers free tennis equipment and training so they could include tennis as part of their programmes
- St John Ambulance ran 1<sup>st</sup> Responder training to young people in some of our locations.
- The Felix Project provides surplus food to a number of HAF providers which families then collect.
- Food hygiene team liaise with HAF providers around food business registration and food hygiene inspections.
- Cooking Champions run food hygiene training.

### 2.3.8 Children and families' feedback

We gather feedback at each programme from children, parents, and providers. Some of the many comments are: -

*"The children absolutely loved it! Will you pass on our huge thanks to Platinum Arts and IMPACT, they were both brilliant!" - Lisa Wise, Headteacher, Wilbury Primary School*

*"The young people loved the experience, especially when they were creating together. There were tears on the last day at every site – they didn't want it to end!" - Nina Hart-Lewis, Director, Platinum Performing Arts*

*Parent: My children were well looked after, and staff helped them engage with activities. The staff were organised and were able to separate my children from me no issues. This club is the only club that has been able to engage my children and have them stay the whole session every day.*

*Parent: [Childrens' names] loved it ... they came back home so excited. I got nothing but praise from all the coaches, you guys do a fantastic job!*

*Parent: I just wanted to say that [Child's name] absolutely enjoyed the camp so much he wanted to attend every day! He would come home and tell me about all the activities he did and the new friends he made.*

*Parent: Thanks for organising the camp. I have to say I was quite nervous sending [Child's name] as he is only in reception and not many kids from his class were going on the days he was. Despite my reservations he had a great time and was excited about coming back for future camps. He said*

*everyone was very friendly and he liked the activities and getting to spend time with older children. He has already told friends in his class to come next time!*

*Parent: I want to firstly thank you very much for supporting the decision for my son to be able to attend (name of programme) along with a one to one the week before last, he had a brilliant time and did some great activities.*

*Further to this, I wanted to take the time to mention how great I found (name of programme) to be with my son. P and his team were very aware that I was anxious about my son and how he would get on, but I was very kindly reassured that he would be fine. P spent time talking to me about what my son's interests were so he could carefully allocate a member of his team to support my son. My son was very happy to have a one to one and felt supported the whole time. His one-to-one T was very kind and helpful towards my son. This was also great for me as it helped me know he was able to join in activities with the other children alongside having the support he needed. I found (name of programme) to have provided a range of activities that were engaging for my son and when he would finish attending, he would actually ask when he could go back which I knew meant my son really had fun there.*

*I wanted to take the time out to give you some feedback from a parent's perspective of how I felt (name of programme) were as I was so impressed with everything they have done for my son. It was a really positive experience and has given him the opportunity to engage in fun activities during these summer holidays.*

### **3. Key challenges and priorities**

#### **3.1 High levels of children with SEND**

Each holiday programme there has been a high demand from parents with children that require additional support. Our local challenges we face are:

- a lack of specialist SEND providers.
- HAF providers not having access to experienced staff to support children with complex needs.
- late bookings that request additional support for children with SEND; and
- children accessing HAF with undisclosed additional needs, which means that providers do not have the capacity to include these children.

All LAs face a challenge, having to engage as many children as possible eligible to free school meals, including those with SEND needs and sufficiency of funding.

Going forward a portion of funding will be allocated for specialist SEND support. HAF team will work closely with providers to develop and deliver specialist SEND provision and continue to provide training for HAF providers to enable them to support children with SEND.

#### **3.2 Free School Meal (FSM)**

Since HAF began in April 2021, number of children eligible for FSM have risen from 13,571 to 16,547.

School census data from October 2023 shows that 16,547 children in Enfield are in receipt of benefits related to free school meals. This is 29.66% of the total school population. Current DfE funding is not adequate to meet the needs of all eligible children if they were to participate in the full HAF entitlement for each holiday period.

The demand for free school meals is likely to continue to increase particularly during the cost-of-living crisis. However, many parents / carers of children in primary schools who receive Universal free school meals have not applied for benefits related free school meals and therefore the HAF programme has highlighted the associated benefits of applying such as receiving food vouchers.

Going forward we will continue to work closely with Free School Meal officers to carry out eligibility checks and promote the benefits of applying for free school meals. We will continue to raise inadequacy of funding with the DfE.

### **3.3 Providers market**

Whilst there have been a lot of investment made into developing local providers' market, the challenges remain for smaller providers or community groups to deliver against the DfE criteria. Our coordination focus will remain on supporting all providers, particularly smaller providers to deliver high quality HAF programmes. We will continue to support providers through a training programme, regular provider network meetings, providing links to additional opportunities and quality assurance visits during the HAF period of delivery. Following each holiday period, we continue to review performance with providers and work towards continuous improvement.

### **3.4 Sustainability of funding**

HAF programme funding has been confirmed on a year-to-year basis. It is as yet unknown what funding if any will be made available post 2024/25, which makes it difficult to make long term strategic plans.

## **4. Conclusion**

Enfield Council has made significant strides to expand delivery of HAF and reach out to vulnerable families with eligible children to engage them in HAF. The programme was launched during the pandemic, which presented significant challenges for mobilisation at that point. This report highlights positive trajectory in terms of participation of eligible children in HAF and maturing providers' market enabled by strong partnership work and commitment.

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## **Background Papers**

DfE HAF guidance

DfE reports that are submitted after each holiday programme

Finance summary that is submitted to the DfE annually

Data from booking systems and providers reporting and monitoring